

Halsary

REPORT

TO THE

Haltwhistle Rural District Council

For the Year 1953

BY

WILSON MINNS,

M.B.E., M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.

ACTING MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

STAFF.

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|---|--|
| J. K. ADAMSON, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,
(Resigned November, 1953) | } <i>Medical
Officer
of Health</i> |
| WILSON MINNS, M.B.E., M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.,
(Acting M.O.H. from November, 1953) | |
| A. M. DICKSON, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A. — <i>Sanitary Inspector.</i> | |
| J. J. NIXON, B.Sc., A.R.I.C.S., — <i>Part-Time Sanitary Inspector</i> | |
| Miss V. GREGORY | <i>Clerk/Typist.</i> |

*To the Chairman and Councillors of the Rural District Council
of Haltwhistle.*

MR. CHAIRMAN, COUNCILLORS,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for 1953.

As will be seen from the Vital Statistics, the birth rate has remained almost stationary for the past three years. It is slightly below the average figure for England and Wales.

The death rate is very close to the average for England and Wales. 16 deaths were due to cancer, compared with 20 last year. Again over 60 per cent of the deaths were due to disease of the circulatory system.

There was an increase in the number of infectious diseases notified, largely due to the prevalence of Measles, and, to a smaller extent, of Whooping Cough. For the fifth successive year no case of diphtheria has been notified, a tribute to the success of immunisation among infants and school entrants. The number of cases of Tuberculosis notified fell from 7 in 1952 to 4 in 1953, but among these four there was one death. There were 6 cases of Poliomyelitis ; the first four cases notified were related, the other two—a mother and baby domiciled in the Hexham Rural District—were notified from the Haltwhistle War Memorial Hospital, and the baby died.

During 1953, 50 houses were completed, 38 at Halton-lea-Gate, and 12 Aged People's Dwellings in Aesica Road, Haltwhistle.

Some advancement was made towards improving the water supply in the district during 1953. The use of a spring at Melkridge has obviated the need to cart water to Bardon Mill. The Bardon Mill Augmentation Scheme has been abandoned on account of the cost, but it is hoped to bring in smaller schemes to improve the water supply to districts poorly sup-

plied. The Slaggyford water scheme is almost complete, and will supply 65 houses and 13 farms.

The sewage disposal works at Halton-lea-Gate are now complete, and will provide adequately for this village. The water supply and sewage disposal schemes of many small villages in the Rural District are not satisfactory, the two being related. The difficulty is financial, as the expenditure involved would be several times the value of the houses. A good deal is being done to improve farm houses and cottages under the Hill Farming Act, and small schemes are being planned by the Engineer and Surveyor.

In conclusion, I should like to acknowledge my indebtedness to the Clerk, the Sanitary Inspector and other Officials for their co-operation and assistance, and to thank the Chairman and Members of the Council for the interest they have taken in the work of my department. The work for the majority of the year was the responsibility of Dr. Adamson, who was part-time Medical Officer of Health for a number of years.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

WILSON MINNS,

Acting Medical Officer of Health

VITAL STATISTICS.

Population.

The population of the Rural District, estimated at 30th June, 1953, was 7,522. This is a decrease of 36 on the 1952 figure and it is the second occasion in recent years that a decrease has been recorded.

Birth Rate.

At 14.35 Live Births per 1,000 population, a slight increase has occurred.

The present figure compares with the rate of 15.5 for all England and Wales.

From a total of 103 Live Births, 4 were Illegitimate. There were 6 Still Births, 5 Male and 1 Female.

It is interesting to record that, since 1946, there have been each year more Boys than Girls registered. The proportion this year is 4 to 3.

Infantile Mortality.

There were no deaths of infants under 1 year, an exceptional return. The National Figure is 22.4 per 1,000 Live Births.

General Death Rate.

A total of 93 deaths occurred during 1953, a decrease of 12 on last year's figure. This gives us a Crude Death Rate of 12.36 per 1,000 population.

Applying the comparability factor, this gives us a Death Rate of 11.37 per 1,000 population. The figure for all England and Wales is 11.4.

Cancer caused 16 deaths in 1953. This figure compares with those of previous years as follows :—

1945	—	23	1948	—	14	1951	—	11
1946	—	13	1949	—	16	1952	—	20
1947	—	19	1950	—	10	1953	—	16

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Scarlet Fever.

Thirteen cases of Scarlet Fever were notified during the year, the majority being endemic. Fortunately the cases were of a very mild nature and were all treated at home.

Diphtheria.

For the fifth year in succession, no cases were reported.

Poliomyelitis.

In July and August, six cases of this disease were notified. This compares with 9 in 1952.

These cases were subsequently confirmed, 3 being Paralytic and 3 non-paralytic. One case, an infant, died ; the child did not belong to this district.

Five of the confirmed cases occurred in children and 1 in an adult.

The first four cases notified were related ; the other two, a mother and baby, came from Hexham Rural District and were notified from Haltwhistle War Memorial Hospital.

Further investigation into the relationship between combined Whooping Cough and Diphtheria Immunisation and the Paralytic cases was performed and the results forwarded to the Medical Research Council.

Measles.

186 cases were reported. The majority of these occurred in a widespread epidemic during the summer months.

Paratyphoid Fever.

There was 1 case of Paratyphoid B notified. A careful watch on this patient and on contacts was made.

Tuberculosis.

There were 4 new notifications of Tuberculosis. All of these cases were pulmonary.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

The area of the Haltwhistle Rural District is 96,333 acres.

The estimated population for 1953 is 7,522.

The number of inhabited houses on 31st December, 1953, was 2,405.

The sum represented by a penny rate is £150 8s. 10d.

The rateable value is £38,228.

HEALTH SERVICES.

Hospitals.

(a) HALTWHISTLE WAR MEMORIAL HOSPITAL.

Surgeon :	Mr. C. I. Raeburn, F.R.C.S.ED.
Gynaecologist :	Mr. Linton Snaith, F.R.C.S.
Physician :	Dr. G. J. Murray, M.D.
Matron :	Miss E. Morton.

This hospital, which includes a modern Maternity Wing, is under the management of the Hexham and District Management Committee.

The Local House Committee—Chairman, Mr. G. E. Dent, meets on the first Friday of alternate months.

(i) *X-Ray Department.*

X-Ray examinations are carried out Mondays and Fridays at 1-30 p.m.

Radiographer :—Miss Anderson.

Consultant Radiologist :—Dr. Beamish.

(ii) *Gynaecologist Out-Patient Department.*

Second Friday every month at 2 p.m.

(iii) *Surgical Out-Patient Department.*

Wednesdays, 12 noon.

(iv) *Medical Out-Patient Department.*

Alternate Tuesdays, 2-30 p.m.

(b) HEXHAM GENERAL HOSPITAL.

Accommodation at this hospital is available for patients from this district. A number of medical cases for detailed investigation and some major emergency surgical cases are referred to this hospital.

Patients for out-patient Physiotherapy are treated at this hospital.

(c) CARLISLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES HOSPITAL.

WALKERGATE INFECTIOUS DISEASES HOSPITAL, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE.

Cases of infectious disease requiring In-patient treatment are accommodated at the above hospitals.

Tuberculosis Service.

(i) CHEST CLINICS.

Hexham General Hospital—Tuesdays from 9 a.m.
Tuberculosis Officer — Fredric L. Wollaston,
M.R.C.S.

(ii) INSTITUTIONAL TREATMENT.

(a) *Wooley Sanatorium.*

The standard of treatment at this hospital continues to be exceptionally high.

(b) *Hexham General Hospital.*

In response to the Ministry's request for additional accommodation for treatment of tuberculosis, further beds have been provided at this hospital.

(c) *Stannington Sanatorium.*

25 children's beds are available.

Midwifery Service.

(i) ANTE-NATAL CARE.

Two clinics per month are held at the Haltwhistle Hospital by the local doctors.

(ii) HALTWHISTLE HOSPITAL.

The majority of the expectant mothers in the district are confined in the Haltwhistle Hospital.

The services of a visiting Gynaecologist, together with his staff, have proved of great assistance and are also available for emergency work.

Bowmer Bank Hostel, Morpeth, cares for unmarried expectant mothers.

(iii) DOMICILIARY SERVICE.

Two midwives reside at the Haltwhistle Nurses' Home, Allenbrae, Haltwhistle (Telephone 368).

Two cars are provided for the use of the Nurses in attending cases in this extensive district.

Home Help Service.

The County Council Home Help Service is in operation in the district.

Home Helps are available to householders where such help is required in cases of illness, but priority is given to domiciliary maternity cases.

County Orthopaedic Service.

The Orthopaedic Clinic for children is held at Hexham General Hospital every Tuesday at 10 a.m., and at Haltwhistle Hospital on the first Tuesday every month at 2 p.m.

An Orthopaedic Surgeon attends on the fourth Tuesday every month at Hexham General Hospital.

Child Welfare Service.

Clinics are held at Haltwhistle Hospital every Thursday by the Child Welfare Medical Officer and the Health Visitor.

School Dental Clinic.

Clinics are held every Monday at Haltwhistle War Memorial Hospital. The Dentist visits the various schools in the district.

Dental Officer :—Mr. Ireland.

Public Health Laboratory Service.

The Public Health Laboratory, under the Director, Dr. Messer, is located at the Newcastle General Hospital.

Ambulance Service.

The Ambulance Service is run and maintained by the members of The St. John's Ambulance Division, for the Northumberland County Council, and members of the Nursing Division act as attendants when required.

During the year 1953, 1,771 cases were handled, made up as follows :—

Cases Transported by Ambulance.

Road Accidents..	10	Mileage Covered	254
Other Accidents	28	Mileage Covered	715
Invalids	133	Mileage Covered	3,758
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	171		4,727
	<hr/>		<hr/>
Car Sitting Cases	1,600	Mileage Covered	33,531
	<hr/>		<hr/>
Total Cases ..	1,771	Total Mileage	38,258
	<hr/>		<hr/>

It must again be emphasised that the apparent excessive use of this service is occasioned by a considerable proportion of the population living some distance from Haltwhistle and in isolated areas and the long journeys from Haltwhistle to the larger Hospitals and Special Clinics.

Registrar of Births, Marriages and Deaths.

Registrar :—Frances Roberts.

Office :—Westgate, Haltwhistle.

Monday, Wednesday, Saturday—11 a.m. to 12 noon.

Thursday—2 p.m. to 3 p.m.

TABLE I.

The following table shows the principal vital mortality rates for the years 1943—1953.

YEAR	<i>Live Birth Rate per 1,000 Population.</i>	<i>General Death Rate per 1,000 Living</i>	<i>Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births.</i>	<i>Death Rate from Respiratory T.B. per 1,000 Living</i>
1943	13.6	16.5	29	.53
1944	16.6	13.8	17	.35
1945	17.1	14.3	68	.43
1946	20.72	17.6	81	.56
1947	17.98	16.57	29	.14
1948	16.85	14.02	24	.45
1949	18.17	16.40	30	.68
1950	15.52	13.65	60	.27
1951	14.10	12.25	37	.13
1952	14.02	13.89	38	.00
1953	14.35	12.36	—	.13

TABLE II.
INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

DISEASE.	YEAR.										
	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
Small Pox ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Paratyphoid Fever ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Scarlet Fever ..	4	26	6	5	11	19	3	1	18	15	13
Whooping Cough ..	2	—	6	2	2	—	14	106	2	3	44
Diphtheria ..	3	3	2	3	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas ..	1	2	2	1	1	—	—	1	—	1	—
Measles ..	62	2	67	34	33	19	147	155	50	121	186
Pneumonia ..	2	3	4	16	5	2	4	3	4	5	7
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis ..	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	9	6
Cerebro Spinal Fever ..	—	—	—	1	—	2	1	—	1	—	—
Dysentery ..	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	8	1	—
Meningococcal Infection ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
TOTALS ..	74	36	88	62	53	45	172	268	83	157	258

TABLE III.
TUBERCULOSIS.

NEW NOTIFICATIONS.							DEATHS.					
Age Periods	Respiratory			Non- Respiratory			Respiratory			Non- Respiratory		
	M.	F.	TOTAL	M.	F.	TOTAL	M.	F.	TOTAL	M.	F.	TOTAL
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45	2	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
TOTAL	2	2	4	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—

TABLE IV.
NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS.

Registered Births						Illegitimate Births (included in Registered Births)				
YEAR	Live Births		Still Births		TOTAL	Live Births		Still Births		TOTAL
	M.	F.	M.	F.		M.	F.	M.	F.	
1943	57	47	3	1	108	6	2	—	—	8
1944	56	62	1	1	120	3	5	—	—	8
1945	58	60	—	2	120	8	3	—	—	11
1946	83	65	1	—	149	7	4	—	—	11
1947	74	64	1	3	142	4	1	—	—	5
1948	70	55	1	—	126	3	3	1	—	7
1949	71	63	2	2	138	2	4	1	1	8
1950	65	51	4	1	121	1	5	—	—	6
1951	54	53	2	1	110	2	2	—	—	4
1952	66	40	5	—	111	2	1	—	—	3
1953	58	45	1	5	109	4	—	—	—	4

TABLE V.
INFANT DEATHS.

Deaths of Infants Under 1 Year of Age					Deaths of Infants Under 4 Weeks of Age				
M. F.					M. F.				
Legitimate	..	—	—	..	Legitimate	..	—	—	
Illegitimate	..	—	—		Illegitimate	..	—	—	
NIL.					NIL.				

TABLE VI.
ANALYSIS OF DEATHS BY CAUSES.

CAUSES OF DEATH	1950		1951		1952		1953	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory ..	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	1
2. Tuberculosis, other	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3. Syphilitic Disease	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
4. Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal Infections ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
8. Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
9. Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10. Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	3	2	1	—	2	1	3	1
11. Malignant Neoplasm, Lung Bronchus	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
12. Malignant Neoplasm, Breast ..	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	3
13. Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus ..	—	—	—	4	—	1	—	—
14. Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	2	3	1	5	7	5	3	5
15. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	1
16. Diabetes	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
17. Vascular, Lesions of Nervous System	6	11	5	5	4	13	8	8
18. Coronary Disease, Angina ..	13	6	14	8	8	8	20	5
19. Hypertension with Heart Disease	—	2	3	1	2	—	1	1
20. Other Heart Disease	8	12	5	11	13	7	9	7
21. Other Circulatory Disease ..	2	—	2	2	3	2	3	1
22. Influenza	—	1	1	6	—	—	—	—
23. Pneumonia	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
24. Bronchitis	2	1	2	1	—	—	—	1
25. Other Diseases of Respiratory System	2	1	1	1	1	—	1	—
26. Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
27. Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	1	—	—	—	1	1	1	—
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis ..	1	1	—	—	—	1	2	—
29. Hyperplasia of Prostate ..	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
30. Pregnancy, Child Birth, Abortion	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
31. Congenital Malformations ..	3	—	1	—	1	—	1	—
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	5	1	2	4	5	7	1	1
33. Motor Vehicle Accidents ..	3	—	1	—	2	—	1	—
34. All other Accidents	2	1	—	—	2	1	—	1
35. Suicide	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
36. Homicide and Operations of War	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
ALL CAUSES	57	45	43	50	54	51	55	38

SANITARY CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY.

No serious shortage of water was experienced during the year. This is, no doubt, due to increased rainfall and to the fact that the Melkridge supply was augmented by the collection of additional springs. It was, therefore, possible to maintain supplies to the Eastern Area of the District without the necessity of carting water by fire tender as has been the practice in previous years.

Difficulties were again experienced on the North Side Supply, but as has been reported previously, these were due to encrustation in the main rather than an actual shortage of water at the source. This matter is receiving attention by the Engineer and Surveyor.

The Haltwhistle and Gilsland supplies were satisfactorily maintained during the year.

Slaggyford Water Scheme.

Work on this scheme proceeded satisfactorily and, at the end of the year, the scheme was almost completed. On completion, a supply will be afforded to approximately 65 houses and 13 farms at present inadequately supplied from a number of small springs of unsatisfactory quality and quantity.

Haltwhistle—Bardon Mill Augmentation Scheme.

Tenders for this scheme were received during the year ; the lowest amounting to £104,000. After receiving notification of the amounts of the grants to be made by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government and the Northumberland County Council, the Rural District Council gave serious consideration to the desirability or otherwise of proceeding with this scheme in view of the very high cost involved. In January, 1954, the Council Resolved that the scheme be abandoned but that smaller schemes be prepared in various parts of the District where the present supplies are unsatisfactory.

The following table shows the number of houses and estimated population supplied (a) direct from the mains and (b) by standpipe, in respect of the Parishes served by public supplies.

PARISH	No. of Houses Direct from Mains	Estimated Population	No. of Houses Served by Standpipes	Estimated Population
Bellister ..	25	80	2	6
Blenkinsopp ..	49	157	13	42
Coanwood ..	2	6	—	—
Featherstone ..	7	22	16	41
Haltwhistle ..	1,035	3,412	70	224
Hartleyburn ..	40	128	23	80
Henshaw ..	134	429	33	105
Lambley ..	5	16	33	105
Melkridge ..	43	137	12	38
Plenmeller ..	25	80	3	9
Thirlwall ..	106	338	16	51
Thorngraston	54	171	15	47
	1,525	4,976	236	758

WATER ANALYSIS.

Samples of water for bacteriological examination were taken from the following supplies :—

DATE	SUPPLY	Public or Private	No. of B. Coli per 100 ml.	Result
21/1/53	Redpath Farm ..	Private ..	Nil.	Satisfactory
21/1/53	Halton-lea-Gate ..	Public ..	Nil.	Satisfactory
21/1/53	Lambley Railway Cotts.	Private ..	Nil.	Satisfactory
21/1/53	Eals	Village Well	Nil.	Satisfactory
31/3/53	Stone House Farm ..	Private ..	Nil.	Satisfactory
31/3/53	Stone House Farm ..	Private ..	1	Satisfactory
31/3/53	Quarry House ..	Public ..	Nil.	Satisfactory
31/3/53	Quarry House ..	Private ..	Nil.	Satisfactory
21/4/53	Allolee Farm ..	Private ..	Nil.	Satisfactory
21/4/53	Birch Trees— Council Offices ..	Public ..	Nil.	Satisfactory
21/4/53	North Side—Reservoir	Public ..	Nil.	Satisfactory
21/4/53	Gilsland—Spring ..	Public ..	Nil.	Satisfactory
23/6/53	Boghead Farm—Trough	Private ..	14	Unsatisfactory
23/6/53	Thorngraston ..	Private ..	3	Suspicious
23/6/53	Bardon Mill ..	Public ..	2	Satisfactory
23/6/53	Melkridge ..	Public ..	8	Suspicious
30/6/53	High Shield Farm— No. 1 Spring ..	Private ..	180	Unsatisfactory
	No. 2 Spring ..	Private ..	13	Unsatisfactory
	Field Tile ..	Private ..	180	Unsatisfactory
30/6/53	Cairney Croft ..	Proposed Public ..	180	Unsatisfactory

15/7/53	Melkridge—					
	Inlet Pipe to Reservoir	Public	..	160	Unsatisfactory	
	Collecting Chamber	Public	..	3	Suspicious	
	Stand Tap	..	Public	..	90	Unsatisfactory
15/7/53	Midgeholme Farm	..	Private	..	180+	Unsatisfactory
21/7/53	Cairney Croft	..	Proposed			
		Public	..	35	Unsatisfactory	
21/7/53	Melkridge—					
	Inlet Pipe to Reservoir	Public	..	35	Unsatisfactory	
	No. 2 Chamber	..	Public	..	7	Suspicious
	Stand Tap	..	Public	..	35	Unsatisfactory
30/7/53	Burnhouse, Ridley—					
	No. 1 Spring "A"	Private	..	1	Satisfactory	
	No. 2 Spring	..	Private	..	90	Unsatisfactory
	Inlet to Reservoir	Private	..	5	Suspicious	
	No. 1 Spring "B"	..	Private	..	3	Suspicious
11/8/53	Melkridge—Stand Tap	Public	..	Nil.	Satisfactory	
11/8/53	Barron House—Bore	Proposed				
		Public	..	Nil.	Satisfactory	
11/8/53	Slaggyford—					
	Collecting Chamber 1	Public	..	17	Unsatisfactory	
	Collecting Chamber-2	Public	..	8	Suspicious	
20/8/53	No. 3 Spring—Inlet to					
	Collecting Chamber	Public	..	3	Suspicious	
	No. 2 Spring—Inlet to					
	Collecting Chamber	Public	..	160	Unsatisfactory	
	No. 1 Spring—Inlet to					
	Collecting Chamber	Public	..	180+	Unsatisfactory	
	No. 4 Spring—Inlet to					
	Collecting Chamber	Public	..	3	Suspicious	
25/8/53	Burnhouse, Ridley					
	No. 1 Spring—Inlet					
	pipe to chamber	..	Private	..	11	Unsatisfactory
	No. 2 Spring—Inlet					
	to Chamber	..	Private	..	90	Unsatisfactory
	No. 3 Spring—Inlet					
	pipe to Chamber	Private	..	Nil.	Satisfactory	
	Inlet Pipe to Reser-					
	voir	..	Private	..	18	Unsatisfactory
15/9/53	No. 1 Spring—Inlet to					
	Chamber	..	Private	..	1	Satisfactory
	No. 2 Spring—Inlet to					
	Chamber	..	Private	..	3	Suspicious
	No. 3 Spring—Inlet to					
	Chamber	..	Private	..	50	Unsatisfactory
	Spring —Inlet to					
	Chamber	..	Private	..	11	Unsatisfactory
12/10/53	Highshield Farm	..	Private	..	90	Unsatisfactory
12/10/53	Burnhouse, Ridley—					
	No. 1 Spring—Inlet					
	to Collecting Chamber	Private	..	Nil.	Satisfactory	
	No. 2 Spring—Inlet					
	to collecting Chamber	Private	..	Nil.	Satisfactory	
	No. 3 Spring—Inlet					
	to collecting Chamber	Private	..	Nil.	Satisfactory	
1/12/53	Quarry House—Spring	Private	..	1	Satisfactory	
1/12/53	Quarry House	..	Public	..	7	Suspicious
1/12/53	Midgeholme Farm	..	Private	..	160	Unsatisfactory
1/12/53	Melkridge—Stand Tap	Public	..	1	Satisfactory	

The appropriate steps were taken to eliminate contamination on the supplies where pollution was found.

Samples of water for chemical analysis were taken as under :—

DATE	SUPPLY	Public or Private	RESULT
29/6/53	Melkridge— Tap at Tow House ..	Public	Satisfactory
1/7/53	Cairney Croft—Borehole ..	Proposed Public	Satisfactory
15/10/53	Gilsland—Spring at Burnt Walls	Proposed Public	Satisfactory
15/10/53	Barron House—Borehole	Proposed Public	Satisfactory

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

New Schemes.

The construction of the sewage disposal works at Halton-lea-Gate (Hartleyburn Parish) was completed during the year.

During the year a report was submitted by the Medical Officer of Health, the Engineer and Surveyor and the Sanitary Inspector, on the existing conditions at various villages in the District and attention was drawn to the need for the provision of proper sewers and sewage disposal plants.

While the Council are anxious to proceed with the provision of satisfactory schemes, the main obstacle is one of finance. It is hoped, however, that some progress will be made in the provision of adequate sewers etc. although it is likely that, of necessity, some considerable time will elapse before conditions in several villages can be brought up to modern standards.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Meat.

Centralised slaughtering for the two Rural Districts of Haltwhistle and Alston continues to be carried out at Portobello Slaughterhouse, Haltwhistle.

Regular inspections were made and the premises were well maintained.

Arrangements for the disposal of condemned meat and offal were made by the Ministry of Food.

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number Killed ..	539	64	26	2,671	7
Number Inspected ..	539	64	26	2,671	7
All Diseases except Tuberculosis :					
Whole carcasses condemned	1	14	1	19	2
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	374	19	7	84	4
Percentage of the number inspected affected with diseases other than Tuberculosis ..	69.57	51.56	30.76	3.86	85.71
Tuberculosis Only :					
Whole carcasses condemned	1	5	1	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	10	7	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ..	2.04	18.75	3.84	—	—

The following table shows the amount of meat and other foods condemned during the year :—

UNSOUND FOOD	Surrendered	Seized	Legal Proceedings
Beef (Home Killed) Stones	507½	—	—
Beef (Imported) ..	4½	—	—
Mutton (Home Killed) ..	52½	—	—
Mutton (Imported) ..	—	—	—
Pork (Home Killed) ..	19	—	—
Pork (Imported) ..	—	—	—
Game Lbs.	—	—	—
Poultry	—	—	—
Fish	—	—	—
Fruit Cases	—	—	—
Canned Goods Tins	4	—	—
Bacon Lbs.	19½	—	—
Cheese	—	—	—
Butter	—	—	—
Lard	—	—	—
Eggs	—	—	—
Cooked Ham (Canned) Stones	7	—	—
Sausages Lbs.	—	—	—
Offal (Home Killed) Stones	668	—	—

Milk and Dairies.

Number of Distributors of Milk registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949. . .	2
Number Licensed for the Sale of Pasteurised Milk under the Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949 . .	2

Ice Cream.

Number of Premises registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, for the manufacture of Ice Cream	2
Number of Premises registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, for the sale of pre-packed Ice Cream	9

Ice Cream Samples.

Samples of Ice Cream were taken throughout the season and submitted to the Methylene Blue Test. The following is a summary of the results obtained :—

Provisional Grade	1	7	Samples
do.	2	6	do.
do.	3	3	do.
do.	4	4	do.
Total . .		20	do.

Food Premises.

The following shows the number of food premises, by type of business in the District :—

Butchers	7
Bakehouses	4
Cafes	1
Confectioners	3
Fishmongers	2
Fried Fish Shops	2
General Stores	19
Greengrocers	4
Grocers	5
Hotels	8

HOUSING.

Progress has again been made in the erection of new Council Houses and the houses completed during the year are as follows :—

Leaside, Halton-lea-Gate	..	38 Houses
Aesica Road, Haltwhistle	..	12 Aged People's Dwellings.

Proposed Sites—Position at 31st December, 1953.

Coanwood (Lambley Parish)—8 houses.

The preparation of plans etc. were completed and tenders have been accepted.

Gilsland (Thirlwell Parish)—13 Houses.

The preparation of the plans etc. were completed and tenders have been received.

Greenhead (Blenkinsopp Parish)—12 Houses.

Negotiations regarding the site are in progress.

The following table shows the number of houses completed during the year :—

Houses Completed during the year		With State Assistance	Unaided	Total
(a) By Local Authority	Permanent	50	—	50
	Temporary	—	—	—
(b) By other Bodies or Persons	Permanent	—	1	1
	Temporary	—	—	—

Rural Housing Survey.

Following the resignation of the Temporary Additional Sanitary Inspector in October, 1952, it was thought that it might be possible to complete the survey without additional staff. It was found, however, that this was impossible, owing to the pressure of other work.

As there were no applicants for the post of Temporary Additional Sanitary Inspector, Mr. J. J. Nixon was appointed in a part-time capacity in mid September, 1953, and work on the survey has been carried on.

The total number of houses inspected is 2,057 and the inspection of the houses in 13 of the 17 parishes in the District is completed.

Following the service of informal notices, some 60 houses were rendered fit during the year.

Progress in connection with the improvement of farm houses and cottages has continued, and, during the year, schemes were approved under the Hill Farming Act for the reconditioning of 23 houses.

The following table shows the position with regard to the Survey in the various parishes throughout the District as at 31st December, 1953 :—

PARISH	CATEGORY					Total Houses Inspected	State of Survey
	1	2	3	4	5		
Bellister ..	6	1	21	—	1	29	Completed
Blenkinsopp ..	10	3	70	20	13	116	Completed
Coanwood ..	2	—	14	6	—	22	Completed
Featherstone ..	6	1	24	14	3	48	Completed
Haltwhistle ..	388	171	298	67	18	942	In Progress
Hartleyburn ..	2	11	30	10	15	68	Completed
Henshaw ..	93	3	89	27	5	217	Completed
Kirkhaugh ..	1	—	14	2	8	25	Completed
Knaresdale ..	12	5	67	10	2	96	Completed
Lambley ..	4	3	37	22	35	101	Completed
Melkridge ..	16	1	57	9	4	87	Completed
Plenmeller ..	6	9	21	1	2	39	Completed
Ridley ..	16	2	22	2	6	48	Completed
Thirlwall ..	42	14	67	16	13	152	Completed
Thorngraston ..	31	—	13	17	2	63	In Progress
Walltown ..	1	—	1	—	—	2	In Progress
Whitfield ..	—	—	2	—	—	2	In Progress
TOTALS ..	636	224	847	223	127	2,057	

Closing and Demolition of Houses.

A.—Formal Action.

Number of Houses demolished during 1953 as a result of Clearance Schemes or other formal action —

(Number of houses included in above which were from pre-war confirmed Clearance Areas) —

Number of houses closed but not demolished as a result of formal action 13

Informal Action.

Number of houses permanently discontinued as dwellings as a result of informal action and not included above	3
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Reconditioning and Repair.

Number of houses made fit during 1953, by procedure under either Housing or Public Health Acts :—

(a) As a result of informal action	60
(b) By owners as a result of statutory notice	—
(c) By Local Authority in default of owners	—

Improvement Grants—Housing Act, 1949.

	<i>No. of Separate Houses.</i>
(a) Applications submitted to Local Authority during year	22
(b) Applications rejected by Local Authority	—
(c) Applications forwarded to Ministry	20
(d) Applications rejected by Ministry	—
(e) Applications approved	19
(f) Total number of applications approved in the area since inception of scheme	43
No. of houses not included in the above table which were approved for grant under the Hill Farming Act (during 1953)	23

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

The refuse collection service, carried out by direct labour, has operated satisfactorily during the year.

Collections are made from most of the reasonably accessible properties in fourteen of the seventeen parishes in the District, twice weekly in Haltwhistle and once per week in the remainder of the area. The total number of houses covered is approximately 1,950.

One 7 cubic yard Karrier Bantam vehicle with driver and two loaders is used in Haltwhistle, Melkridge and Plenkemmer, and a 7 cubic yard Bedford Vehicle with driver and one loader covers the more outlying parts of the district. Another 7 cubic yard Bedford is retained as a spare refuse vehicle and for use by the Engineer and Surveyor's Department.

Sanitary pails are collected by the refuse collection staff from the various parts of the District still without adequate sewerage systems. This unpleasant task is carried out as efficiently as possible, but occasional complaints are received to the effect that certain pails are not emptied frequently enough. This state of affairs is regretted and every effort should be made for the provision of sewerage systems in the villages at present without these.

Three refuse tips are in use and these have been satisfactorily maintained by the tip attendant who also acts as a relief driver and rodent operator.

RODENT CONTROL

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

Work under this heading proceeded during the year. A number of inspections were made in conjunction with the Rural Housing Survey.

A part-time rodent operator is employed but by force of circumstances a considerable part of this employee's time is spent on duties connected with refuse collection and disposal.

During the year disinfestation treatments have been carried out by the rodent operator on Council properties, private houses and some industrial premises.

The report as required by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries is given in the following table :—

24
TYPE OF PROPERTY

	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	Agri- cultural	All Other (Including business premises)	Total
Total number of proper- ties in Local Autho- rity's District ..	14	2,036	302	145	2,497
Number of properties inspected by the Local Authority during the year as a result of (a) notification (b) survey under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949 (c) otherwise e.g. when visited pri- marily for some other purpose	(a) — (b) 14 (c) —	6 16 195	2 20 67	5 12 66	13 62 328
Number of properties inspected which were found to be infested by rats	Major — Minor 4	— 19	— 6	— 6	— 35
Number of properties inspected which were found to be seriously infested by Mice ..	—	—	—	2	2
Number of infested pro- perties treated by the Local Authority ..	4	19	2	8	33
Number of Notices ser- ved under Section 4— (1) Treatment ..	—	—	4	—	4
(2) Structural Works (i.e. Proofing)	—	—	—	2	2
Number of cases in which default action was taken by the Local Authority following the issue of a notice under Section 4 ..	—	—	—	—	—
Legal Proceedings ..	—	—	—	—	—
Number of " block " control schemes carried out	—	—	—	—	—

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 AND 1948.

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health
(including inspections made by Sanitary Inspector).

PREMISES	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 are to be enforced by Local Authority	4	3	—	—
Factories not included in above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ..	33	14	4	—
Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises)	2	4	—	—
TOTAL	39	21	4	—

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

PARTICULARS	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.I.)	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding ..	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ..	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ..	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ..	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient ..	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	3	3	—	3	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	1	1	—	1	—
Other offences against the Act (Not including offences relating to Outwork) ..	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ..	4	4	—	4	—

WATER SUPPLY.

Sources closed or discontinued	..	1	No. of Houses	..	7
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New Service provided :—

(a) By Local Authority	..	12	No. of Houses	12
(b) By Private Owner	..	8	No. of Houses	8

SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTORS VISITS AND INSPECTIONS.

Housing Inspections	..	..	..	..	..	219
Applications for Council Houses..	..	..	..	..	..	123
Housing Act, 1949 (Improvement Grants)	..	..	..	..	..	114
Housing General	..	..	..	..	..	52
Sanitary Accommodation	..	..	..	..	..	129
Drainage	..	..	..	..	..	220
Water Supply	..	..	..	..	..	189
Moveable Dwellings	..	..	..	..	..	10
Rodent Control	..	..	..	..	..	41
Refuse Collection and Disposal	..	..	..	..	..	98
Factories	..	..	..	..	..	21
Food Premises	..	..	..	..	..	63
Infectious Disease	..	..	..	..	..	19
Nuisances	..	..	..	..	..	11
Slaughterhouses and Meat Inspection	..	..	..	..	..	160
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	..	45
						<hr/>
					TOTAL	..1,514

